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COMPLETION OF THE GALLERIES.

It is well known that for several years past the exhibition space of the Museum has been inadequate for the accommodation of the permanent collections and the passing exhibitions, so that valuable paintings have almost always been in forced retirement. It is with great pleasure that we announce that there is a bright prospect that this condition will be relieved during the next year by the completion of the galleries of the east wing, over Blackstone Hall. This space will furnish sky-lighted exhibition galleries, seven in number, which will complete the quadrangle and increase the wall space of the second floor by almost one half. The arrangement of the galleries is not yet determined. Since this east front of the building is plainly visible from Grant Park, east of the Illinois Central tracks, it is necessary to finish it in stone, and the architects estimate the whole cost at about \$105,000. It is possible to defer the stone finish, and so reduce the immediate cost to about \$65,000. A friend of the Institute has generously offered to give \$25,000 towards this addition, provided the Trustees will raise the balance within one year. Other subscriptions amounting to \$26,000 have already been made, and it appears certain that the required sum will be raised and the addition built. This will for a time relieve the pressure for room, and since it will complete the exhibition space of the present building, future extensions must be made either north and south or by bridging the Illinois Central tracks to the east. It is a matter of course that the present Art Institute, the product of only twenty years of collecting, is only the beginning of what it will be. The central feature, the grand staircase and dome, is still wanting.

ENDOWMENT OF THE HARRIS PRIZES.

For seven years past Mr. Norman W. Harris has furnished a prize of five hundred dollars for the Annual Exhibition of American Oil Paintings. It is thus defined: a prize for the best painting exhibited at the Annual Exhibition, painted by an American artist within two years before the offering of the prize, provided the same picture shall never be awarded a second prize. This prize has been awarded upon successive years to Walter McEwen, John S. Sargent, Robert Henri, Henry O. Tanner, Edmund C. Tarbell and Sergeant Kendall.

In 1904 it was declined by Miss Mary Cassatt, who belongs to an association that will not accept prizes.

Mr. Harris has recently provided a second prize of three hundred dollars, to be awarded for the first time in the autumn exhibition of 1909. He has now endowed these prizes and made them permanent by paying over to the Art Institute a fund the income of which will yield the amount of the prizes.

Mr. Harris has also authorized the Institute to have a design and die made for a suitable medal to accompany the prizes, and the order for the medal has already been given to Mr. Victor D. Brenner of New York, who exhibited a fine collection of medals and plaquettes in the last annual exhibition. The prizes will henceforth be called the Norman Waite Harris Prizes, and will be accompanied by silver and bronze medals. Mr. Harris is an old friend of the Art Institute. He became a Governing Member in 1887, and a Governing Life Member in 1905. In 1894 he presented a valuable collection of Egyptian objects, and he has at various times joined in money subscriptions for building purposes.